

**JEMCO Annual Meeting
August 31, 2006**

Adopted Resolution

Background

Health-Stepwise Approach to Chronic-Disease Risk-Factor Surveillance (STEPS)

During its March 2006 meeting in San Francisco, JEMCO reviewed the need for better performance measurement and program accountability across the sector grants. Although much of the discussion focused on monitoring fiscal performance, the Committee agreed that an important corollary was whether funding demonstrably improves the health, education, and living standards of FSM citizens. As with education, JEMCO has a crucial role in ensuring funds are spent effectively and efficiently.

In 2002, the FSM Department of Health, Education, and Social Affairs (HESA) conducted a population-based health survey known as the “Step-wise Approach to Chronic-Disease Risk-Factor Surveillance” (STEPS) in Pohnpei through funding provided by the World Health Organization (WHO). The survey involved the collection of questionnaire information, physical measurements, and clinical biochemical tests on approximately 1,600 Pohnpei residents. Although official study results have not been released yet, preliminary data indicate that STEPS provided and has the potential to provide systematic baseline data on an array of important chronic-disease indicators.

This year, HESA has taken STEPS to Chuuk State. JEMCO should support this effort and also ensure that the survey is repeated in Pohnpei next year as well as scheduled for Yap and Kosrae in the future. The survey should be repeated in each state on a regular periodic basis to produce consistent longitudinal information. In this way, the data from the surveys would complement the Compact’s performance reports, and add a significant component to the analysis of chronic disease trends and health status throughout the FSM.

Adopted Resolution

JEMCO resolves that:

- 1) Beginning in FY 2007, the Compact health sector budget plan from the FSM National Government (HESA) will include and JEMCO will grant an annual allocation of \$80,000 to perform STEPS surveys in at least one state on a rotating basis. As part of each year’s budget plan, the FSM will include an updated schedule for regularly rotating the survey among the four States to provide recurrent chronic disease data.
- 2) HESA must repeat the STEPS survey in Pohnpei in FY 2007 to begin collecting longitudinal data. The FSM will report on the comparison of the findings of

2002 and 2007 to JEMCO at its August 2007 meeting, as well as on its plan to perform STEPS in Kosrae and Yap.